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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/527,341	10/31/2005	Claude Casses	003D.0054.U1(US)	7142
29683 7590 04/18/2007 HARRINGTON & SMITH, PC 4 RESEARCH DRIVE SHELTON, CT 06484-6212			EXAMINER VU, HIEN D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/18/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

7H

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/527,341	Applicant(s) CASSES ET AL.	
	Examiner Hien D. Vu	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2007.
 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamai et al (0127912) in view of Makita et al (5611706).

As to claims 1-3 and 6, Hamai, Figs. 1-8 show a connector with a plastic body 7 which is housed a flexible multi-terminal seal 12, through holes 23, a terminal 6A,6B,6C, a wire 4D, 4E,4F, a single tubular unit (not labeled) on the wire. Hamai does not clearly show the single unit being a seal and located at least partially in one of the through holes and having sealing lips pressing on the walls of the holes and a smooth second section. Makita, Figs. 4-6B show a single unit seal 25 having similar structure as the tubular unit of Hamai, the seal with sealing lips 49 pressing on the walls of the holes 31, and having a smooth second section 33. It would have been obvious to one with skill in the art to modify the connector of Hamai by forming the single unit to be a seal with sealing lips pressing on the walls of the holes, a smooth second section and positioned the single unit at least partially in one of the through holes, as taught by Makita, in order to seal a gap between the outer circumference of the wire and the inner wall of the holes. It is noted that the tubular unit of Hamai positioned adjacent to the rear of the

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crimping of the terminal; therefore, as shown in Fig. 7 the tubular unit should be located at least partially in one of the through holes of the flexible multi-terminal seal 12.

As to claim 4, Hamai discloses the single unit is partially inserted into the terminal.

As to claim 5, Hamai shows the holes of the multi-terminal seal having a front part could adapt to be at least partially conform the first section of the single unit seal and the rear part could adapt to be at least partially conform to the section of the connection wire.

As to claim 7, Hamai shows the front part of each of the holes is smooth.

As to claim 8, in absence of any showing of criticality by the applicant, to form the multiterminal seal with two plates positioned on top of one another would have been obvious of modification since such changes solves no stated problem.

As to claim 9, Hamai shows the multi-terminal seal is elastic and impermeable material.

As claim 10, Hamai shows terminals 6A,6B,6C and connection wires.

As to claims 11-12, the claims have substantially similar features as claims 1; therefore they are rejected under similar rationale.

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

9. In response to applicant's remarks on page 7 that the holes 23,24 in the seal appear much too small to receive the large tubular. The Examiner agrees that holes 24 as shown in Fig.3 are small to receive the large tubular, it is noted that these holes 24

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are not for receiving the tubular but for receiving the projections 22. The Examiner disagrees that the larger holes 23 are small to receive the large tubular, these holes should be large enough to receive the tubular.

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Hien D. Vu at telephone number 571-272-2016.

HV

4/15/06



HIEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER